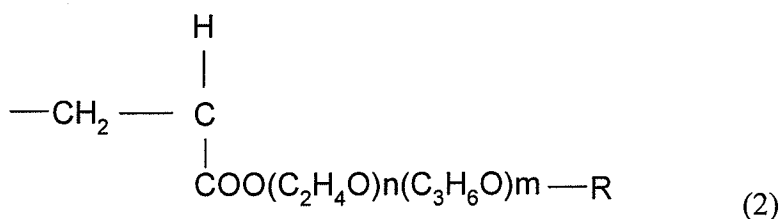


Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method for preparing a ready-to-use concrete composition having fluidity retention up to 90 minutes having a slump value T0 of between 12 and 20 cm, the method comprising the step of adding one or more ~~Use of~~ polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylates comprising at least 75% by number of a random linear chain formation of structural units (1) and (2) illustrated by the following formulae:



in which X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline-earth metal or ammonium, the structural units (1) being able to be identical or different; n is an integer of from 0 to 24, m is an integer of from 0 to 24, with $m < n$, the propylene oxide groups being able to be distributed or not in a random manner amongst the ethylene oxide groups, R represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, the structural units (2) being able to be identical or different; the ratio of the number of structural units (2) to the total number of structural units (1) and (2) being between 20 and 80%, alone or in admixture, to a concrete composition. ~~in order to improve the fluidity retention up to 90 minutes for ready-to-use concrete compositions having a slump value T0 of between 12 and 20cm.~~

2. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1, in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylates comprise at least 80% by number of a random linear chain formation of structural units (1) and (2).

3. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, in which the ratio of the number of structural units (2) to the total number of structural units (1) and (2) is between 40 and 60%.

4. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, in which m is equal to zero.

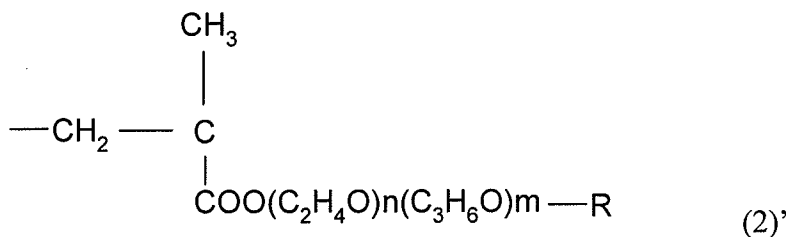
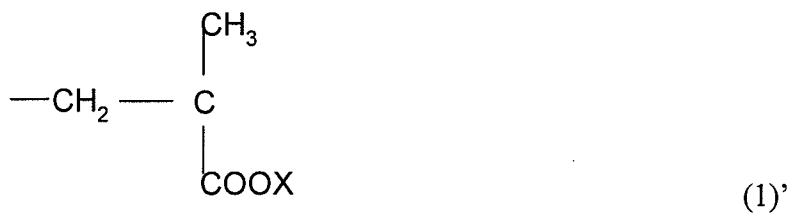
5. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~, in which n is an integer of from 5 to 24.

6. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, in which R represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 18 carbon atoms.

7. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 6, in which R is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, oleyl, stearyl, or palmitoyl moiety.

8. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 7~~, in which in 0.1 to 2% of structural units (2), ~~and/or~~ n is equal to zero ~~and/or~~ and m is not equal to 0 ~~and/or~~ and R represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 6 to 24 carbon atoms.

9. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 8,~~ in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate further comprises up to ~~has a maximum of~~ 25% by number of structural units (1)' and (2)' ~~which are illustrated by~~ of the following formulae:



in which n, m, X and R have the meanings given in claim 1.

10. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 9 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate ~~has from~~ further comprises from 5 to 20% by number of structural units (1)' and/or (2)'.

11. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 9 ~~or 10,~~ in which the ratio of the number of structural units (2)' to the total number of structural units (1)' and (2)' is between 40 and 60%.

12. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 11,~~ in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate has a molecular mass of between 7000 and 50000 g/mol.

13. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate is in the form of an aqueous solution of from 20 to 40% of dry extract.

14. (Currently amended) The method Use according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate is added to the concrete composition at a ratio of from 0.2 to 0.8% of liquid relative to the cement.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Fresh~~ A concrete composition having a slump value T0 of from 12 to 20 cm, the composition and comprising the dispersant specified in claim 1 ~~claims 1 to 14~~.

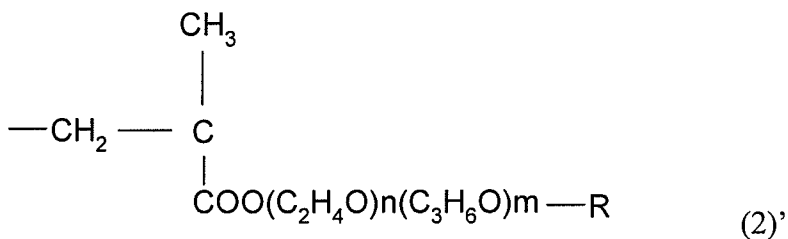
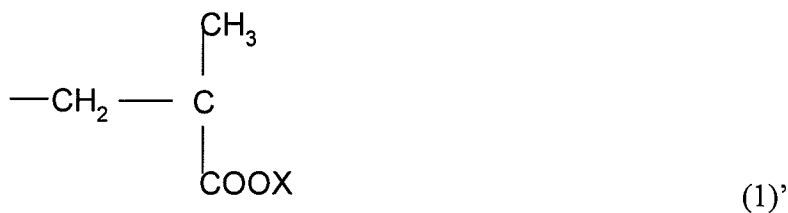
16. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylates comprise at least 80% by number of a random linear chain formation of structural units (1) and (2).

17. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which the ratio of the number of structural units (2) to the total number of structural units (1) and (2) is between 40 and 60%.

18. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which m is equal to zero.

19. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which R is a methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, oleyl, stearyl, or palmitoyl moiety.

20. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate further comprises up to 25% by number of structural units (1)' and (2)' of the following formulae:



in which X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal, an alkaline-earth metal or ammonium, the structural units (1) being able to be identical or different; n is an integer of from 0 to 24, m is an integer of from 0 to 24, with $m < n$, the propylene oxide groups being able to be distributed or not in a random manner amongst the ethylene oxide groups, R represents an alkyl or alkenyl group having from 1 to 24 carbon atoms, the structural units (2) being able to be identical or different; the ratio of the number of structural units (2) to the total number of structural units (1) and (2) being between 20 and 80%, alone or in admixture, to a concrete composition.

21. (New) The composition according to claim 20 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate further comprises from 5 to 20% by number of structural units (1)' and/or (2)'.

22. (New) The composition according to claim 20 in which the ratio of the number of structural units (2)' to the total number of structural units (1)' and (2)' is between 40 and 60%.

First Named Inventor: Dubois-Brugger, Isabelle
Application No. 10/552,244

23. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate has a molecular mass of between 7000 and 50000 g/mol.

24. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate is in the form of an aqueous solution of from 20 to 40% of dry extract.

25. (New) The composition according to claim 15 in which the polyoxyalkylene polycarboxylate is at a ratio of from 0.2 to 0.8% of liquid relative to the cement.